

# Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

Volume 5  
Number 2

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2000

## Earth Day/Waste Free Week Activities

### Celebrate Waste Free Week!

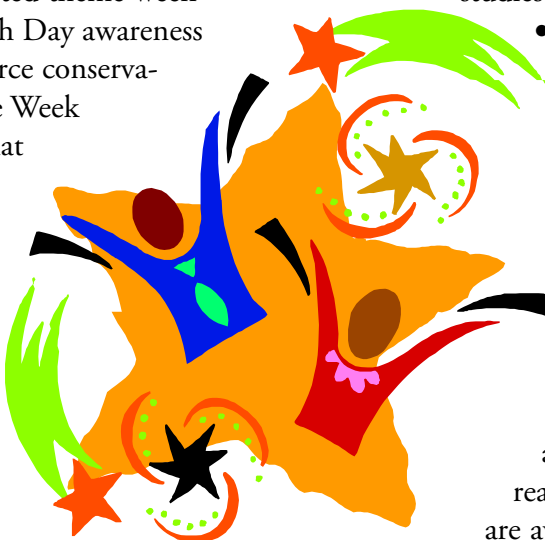
April 17 – 21, 2000

*Interested in free resources, including GRANT\$, to promote Earth Day awareness?* Participate in *Waste Free Week*, an action-oriented theme week that is designed to promote Earth Day awareness and build commitment to resource conservation. The purpose of Waste Free Week is to help students understand that they can take positive actions as individuals, as members of a school, and as members of a family to reduce waste and conserve resources. Waste Free Week activities are designed for middle and high school students. A variety of resources are available for students and teachers, including:

- Teacher mini-grants of up to \$500.
- Packaging Report Cards that teach students how to choose environmentally sound packaging through hands-on analysis of grocery products that they use daily.
- Resource Conservation Puzzles. Ideal for middle school students, these puzzles form the basis for a group process of discovery whereby students learn what resources are required to create products they use every day.
- Waste Free Lunch displays. Examples of how to package a lunch to avoid excess packaging.
- Sample loudspeaker announcements for *Waste Free Week*. Interesting waste prevention tips and facts to include with daily announcements.

- Stop Junk Mail post cards.
- *Zero in on Waste* curriculum guides (versions are available for high school and middle school science and social studies teachers)

• *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things*, by John Ryan and Alan Durning of Northwest Environment Watch. Addresses the hidden impacts of everyday purchases. Written in an engaging and readable style. Copies are available for loan.



### Earth Day 2000 Celebration!

*King County will celebrate Earth Day from 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Seattle Center. Some of the activities that will take place include:*

- Booths sponsored by schools, teachers, and/or students that demonstrate the activities they are doing. If you're interested in participating, call Greg Shiring at (206) 296-4432.
- *Who Put the R in Earth?* assembly and other performances on environmental issues.
- Presentations and hands-on activities on a variety of topics ranging from water quality to household hazardous waste.
- And much more!



King County Solid Waste Division

### Try One of Five Waste Free Week Themes!

Each theme includes an associated activity and lesson plan, optional home activities, incentives, and ideas for designing a display for an Earth Day event at Seattle Center. Feel free to mix and match activity and encourage students to invent additional booth ideas.

1. *Recycling Report Card: School Recycling Program Audit*
2. *Tackle the Trash: Local Litter Research*
3. *Food for Thought: Waste Prevention in the Lunchroom*
4. *Wear it Again: Low Impact Fashion*
5. *Salmon-Safe School: An Investigation of Water Use and Landscape Practices*

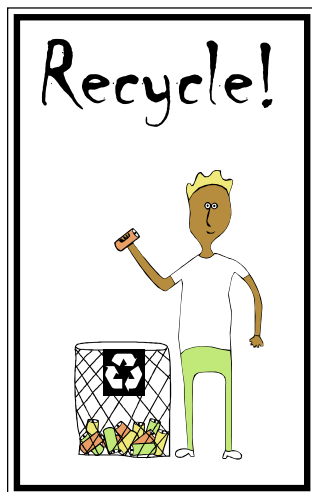
Activity guides with additional detail will be provided upon request.

### Defending Your Mother...Earth Letter to the Editor Writing Contest

Win prizes! King County is sponsoring a contest for your middle and high school students to write motivating and inspiring letters to the editor that would educate and inspire other students and community members to recycle, reduce waste and otherwise care for the environment through the conservation of resources. Winners at the county level will be recognized at an Earth Day 2000 event and receive prizes from environmentally conscious sponsors. Entries must be post-marked by February 11, 2000.

### 1999-2000 Recycling Poster Design Contest

Foster your students' creative side! *How?* For the second year, the King County Solid Waste Division is sponsoring a recycling poster design contest for middle and high school students. Posters should encourage recycling and the proper use of recycling bins and illustrate the connection between personal actions and the health of the environment. Students can enter on an individual basis or as a team, with a limit of five members per team. Posters must be turned



in on March 1, 2000. Winners will receive prizes and be recognized at an Earth Day 2000 event, where their posters may be displayed. (Winning posters from last year are being distributed! View them on our website at <http://www.dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr>. Click on Secondary School Programs.)

### Millennium Resolutions: A Commitment to Action in 2000

It's not too late to make resolutions to protect our local environment! *This is a fun and meaningful activity that all age groups can participate in!* Millennium Resolution cards in three colors (yellow, red, and blue) will be provided to all classes that wish to participate. Students and teachers will record their names and their personal resolutions on a yellow card. Students will then decide, along with their teacher, on a resolution for their class or school to be recorded on a red card. Students may also be invited to decide on household resolutions with their families, to be recorded on the blue cards. A King County representative will collect the resolutions from each school and take them to the Earth Day 2000 celebration at the Seattle Center

on April 22.

Before the school year is out, resolutions will be returned to classes to remind students of their commitments and allow them to check up on their progress. Lists of simple actions that students, teachers, and schools can take will be provided upon request.

Students are also encouraged to write their elected officials, letting them know of the resolutions they

For more information about Waste Free Activities, contact Madeline Pilapil at (206) 374-7789 ext. 23.

## Classroom Presentations, Field Trips, and Resources

have made and urging them to commit themselves to protecting the environment.

### Master Recycler Composter Assistance

Master Recycler Composter volunteers are willing to help your students. Invite a recycling expert into your classroom for a free presentation on topics ranging from waste reduction and recycling to worm bin composting. Call the MRC Hotline at (206) 343-8505.

### Transfer Station or Landfill Tours

Recycling transfer station or landfill tours for school groups are available. Contact Julia Bassett of the King County Solid Waste Division at (206) 296-0466.

### Environmental Fair Assistance

Interested in holding a student research fair on household hazardous waste and other environmental topics? King County will provide free support and assistance to three schools/teachers interested in piloting this opportunity. We will provide a classroom presentation on the topic, help develop project ideas and provide assistance with fair planning and logistics. For more details, please contact Rene Alexander (206) 583-0655 or E-mail: [ralexander@triangleassociates.com](mailto:ralexander@triangleassociates.com).

### Hazards on the Homefront

Is hazardous waste a topic of interest to you and your students? If so, consider signing up for the *Hazards on the Homefront* classroom presentation. This popular, hands-on program highlights environmental and human health issues. Students handle dozens of household product containers, learn to identify hazardous products, test safe home cleaners, and debate waste disposal methods. You can easily tie the program in with a unit on environmental studies, salmon, chemistry or health and safety. This *free* program is offered to students in grades 4-12. Spaces are still available from January through April. Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact Gail Gensler at (206) 263-3082 or send e-mail to: [gail.gensler@metrokc.gov](mailto:gail.gensler@metrokc.gov).

### Classroom Assistance for Environmental Projects:

### Green Teams!

Do you need help getting your environmental

project started? Need ideas for activities that give kids hands on experience in problem solving AND helping our environment? Free assistance for King County elementary schools ranging from classroom presentations to activity ideas is available for such programs as improving recycling, butterfly gardening, and habitat stewardship. Prizes and recognition are provided to classrooms that complete projects. To schedule a presentation or get more information, contact Rene Alexander at Triangle Associates at (206) 583-0655 or by email: [ralexander@triangleassociates.com](mailto:ralexander@triangleassociates.com).

### Nature Connections with King County Park System

Immerse your students in nature through these fun, EALR-centered, grade appropriate, hands-on programs. Choose from a menu that includes:

- **Habitat Connections:** Get your students out to experience some of King County's unique habitats. Includes a one-hour classroom visit and a one-hour field trip. Choose one of four habitats: marine, wetland, stream and forest.
- **Nature in the Classroom:** A naturalist will present a one-hour program. More than 30 topics are offered, including Animal Adaptations, Amazing Insects, Native Plant Uses, Animal Senses and Pond Dipping.
- **Outdoor Discovery Day:** Schedule a custom-designed field day or science fair for multiple classrooms. Call for prices.



For more information, contact the Interpretive Programs Office at (206) 296-4171 or [ipo.parks@metrokc.gov](mailto:ipo.parks@metrokc.gov).

### Meet EALR's With Free *Smart Moves* Booklet

Are you interested in free, fun environmental education activities that will help your students meet EALR's? Download a copy of *Smart Moves for Washington Schools*, a K-12 activity booklet of classroom and service-learning activities, that educates youth about the tradeoffs associated with travel choices. The activities, which are linked to Essential Academic Learning Requirements, include mapping student's routes to school, creating a car-free visitor's guide for your town, analyzing advertising, vehicle emissions and expenses, and redesigning your community. Awards will be

presented to participating classes with exemplary projects in connection with the April 2000 campaign.

*Smart Moves* can be downloaded from the Internet at: [www.climatesolutions.org/smartmoves.html](http://www.climatesolutions.org/smartmoves.html) or contact Climate Solutions by phone at (360) 352-1763 or by E-mail: [anne@climatesolutions.org](mailto:anne@climatesolutions.org).

### **FREE *Natural Connections* Video and Materials**

*Natural Connections*, a fantastic video on salmon, ecosystems, and biodiversity is available free to educators in King County. (Run time is 48 minutes.) The video, geared for middle and high school students, goes around the world to explore the impacts of local decisions and activities on the global environment. The program also includes a

## **Classroom Presentations, Field Trips, and Resources**

teaching guide and web site that may be accessed at: [www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/naturalconnections.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/naturalconnections.htm). To obtain a video, contact Mary West at (206) 296-4361.

### **Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Training Opportunity**

Last chance this school year to become the recycling & composting expert at your school! This community education program includes approximately forty hours of training in resource conservation, waste prevention and home composting, and is open to all King County residents outside of the City Of Seattle. This FREE training begins on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and runs every Tuesday through April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9 PM at the Redmond Community Center and three full Saturdays (dates not yet determined). In return for the free training, program graduates volunteer 40 hours of community outreach. Applications for the program are due by March 3rd. For more information and an application form, call Karen May at (206) 296-4353 or e-mail at [karen.may@metrokc.gov](mailto:karen.may@metrokc.gov) or view their website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/mrc.htm>



### **Project WET for Teachers**

Learn about water and healthy streams for salmon! Attend a Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop on **Saturday, March 4, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM** at King County's South Treatment Plant in Renton. Take home the excellent Project WET curriculum full of water activities for K-12 and the Project WILD Aquatic curriculum with great lessons about salmon and other wildlife. As part of the workshop, teachers will receive a tour of the wastewater treatment plant. For more information, call Cindy Potter, King County Park System.

**King County Solid Waste Division schools programs web site:**  
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>

## **Class Act – February 2000**

c/o Triangle Associates, Inc.  
811 First Ave., #255  
Seattle, Washington 98104

